

WOMEN OF WORTH SERIES

WOW! WOMEN *of* WORTH

*How to Become an Extraordinary
Woman Using Ordinary Tools!*

EARMA BROWN

WOW!

Women of Worth

*How to Become an Extraordinary
Woman Using Ordinary Tools*

Earma Brown

Inner Court Publishing
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About Author



Earma Brown, a 12 book Christian Author inspires women around the world to become women of destiny, purpose, and victory through speaking engagements, her books, and Bible studies. She is also the author of numerous other books including *Wow! Women of Destiny: 7 Steps to Fulfilling Your Passion, Purpose and Power in God*, a ministry of helps guidebook *In the Spirit of Armorbearing*, a prayer book *Living The Prayer Fulfilled Life* and a devotional book *A Devotion to Serve* co-authored with husband Varn Brown. She and her husband Varn live in Dallas Texas.

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Women of Worth

*How to Become an Extraordinary Woman
Using Ordinary Tools*

Earna Brown

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Unlocking Your Potential

Everything is theoretically impossible, until it is done. One could write a history of science in reverse by assembling the solemn pronouncements of highest authority about what could not be done and could never happen." --Robert Heinlein

Have you felt as if a lid was placed over your life? Roger Bannister said he felt that way when everyone kept telling him no one had ever run a mile in less than four minutes. Many believed it was physically impossible to expect that type of performance from your body in such a short time. Finally, he rejected the nos of the people who said it couldn't be done, even moreso he couldn't do it and decided to take the lid off his expectations of what his body could do.

By doing so, in 1954 Mr. Bannister became the first athlete to run the mile in four minutes. After his accomplishment the four minute mile has become a standard to judge other athletes by how many can do it in less than a minute.¹ I have decided to not tell anyone what is impossible to do; realizing God may have been waiting centuries for someone ignorant of the impossibilities to accomplish that very thing.

Our lid sometimes is composed of our low expectations of what God will do or our own doubt, and unbelief. And other times it believes the negative things others have told us. Or we believe the circumstances that take a stance against what God has said or destined for us.

Pastor Kathy Hayes often says, "Years ago as a teenager, God showed me visions and glimpses of my future now. He told me to never put a lid on what he wanted to do in my life."

A Portrait Of God's Woman

HER GIFT

Your talent is God's gift to you; what you do with it is your gift to God. --Leo Buscaglia,
American Expert on Love, Lecturer, Author.

Do you know what your gifts and talent are? A woman's gift is what she has received from God, developed and returns to God through service. In other words, you are woman and a part of His

gift to mankind. As women this relates to our value, uniqueness, beauty, dignity, creativity, stateliness, acceptance, resident resources, and contributions we make.

Christians all over the world use Jesus' story of the talents to illustrate our responsibility for what we have been given. However, Bible scholars and ministers debate over what Jesus was referring to in his parable of the talents. The debate includes money, gifts, anointing and so on. Though I can not settle the debate I am always reminded of my life changing experience with this story years ago.

One Sunday, I listened to a minister relate the parable of the talents taught using the word gifts instead of talents: For the Kingdom of Heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them, and to one he gave five gifts, to another two, and another one he gave one.

He gave to each according to his own ability; and immediately went on a journey...After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. Two of them used the gifts he gave them and it multiplied. The one that received the one gift did not use his gift and suffered a great loss.

As I listened my heart became heavy with conviction. Memories of my childhood dreams and gifts kept flashing across my mind. I saw myself over the years stuff those gifts away. They seemed so small, I didn't think I could do anything much so I allowed them to atrophy and fade away. I repented and asked God to forgive me. I promised if He would give me another chance and open the doors of opportunity, I would develop and use my small gifts for His glory.

Many years later, here I am writing to you in this book still developing and using those small gifts. As Jesus' parable goes, I want my Lord to come back and find my gift multiplied many times over.

God changed my heart and perspective concerning my gifts. I began to realize my responsibility for what was given to me, even if it was only one gift. Won't you join me as I acknowledge anew God's gifts to us and the responsibility we have to use what's given us.

CONDEMNATION THE COUNTERFEIT FOR CONVICTION

We often struggle in frustration to change ourselves to be what we know we should be like. For example, I knew in my mind that I should be more confident and bold in God. But as I tried to do this using whatever method I was involved in at the time I would find myself further withdrawn. I would reject myself more, giving into more feelings of insecurity, which lead to hating myself more and feeling guilty about it all.

Change did not come through my efforts alone. Nor will it come through your efforts alone. *Change in our lives comes as a result of renewing our minds to the Word of God.* The more we agree with God and believe what He says is true, the more we will see the changes manifest.

We begin to think and talk differently then finally we begin to act differently. Line upon line precept upon precept will begin to manifest in our life. In the mean time as Joyce Meyers says, "Enjoy the journey! Be joyful about your progress, not depressed about how far you still have to go." One of the first steps in renewing our minds to a right image of ourselves is deciding to be confident. Confident in whom you may ask?

Word Alive!

I used to minister in the Dallas county jails with an older woman in her 50's. This woman was so confident that the prisoners in the hallways often mistook her as a lawyer or judge. I asked her one-day what was the secret to her confidence. I wanted to know if she was aware that any room she walked in people automatically looked to her for guidance. She chuckled and without missing a beat she said, "Yes, I am aware of it. But my confidence is in the Lord and flows from there."

Therefore, it is not self-confidence we seek, but confidence in Christ. The prophet Jeremiah put it this way, "Most blessed is the man who believes in, trusts in, and relies on the Lord, and whose hope and confidence the Lord is."²

Our goal as a believer is to be confident in Christ. It is a sin to be confident in ourselves. Philippians 4:13 says in part...I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency. My husband often says, "Earma, whenever there has been a need, you have taken loads of pressure off of me because I know you trust God with me and not just depending on me."

Also in Philippians 3:3 Paul says that we are to put no confidence in the flesh. That includes family as well as our friends and ourselves. That doesn't mean we don't trust anyone. I am simply saying our confidence should be in God alone.

Again Prophet Jeremiah reminds us, "Thus says the Lord: Cursed (with great evil) is the strong man who trusts in and relies on frail man, making weak (human) flesh his arm, and whose mind and heart turn aside from the Lord."³

Confidence in God is faith. In Hebrews Paul says, "Cast not away your confidence (*faith*): it will be richly rewarded."⁴ Faith is a lifestyle not a one act deed.⁵ Strive to be diligent in your faith. We learn about God, His love, His acceptance, His ways, His Word—then we ultimately decide to believe or not believe.

If we believe, we have confidence (*faith*.) If we don't believe, we live in doubt and duplicity about everything. The Apostle James said a double-minded man would receive nothing from God.⁶

At times Satan will attack our confidence level. He will attempt to steal our confidence in God and cause us to doubt, feel insecure and even live in fear and inadequacy.

When those times come, (DWJD) do what Jesus did: Jesus used the Word when Satan came to distort his identity. Remember he tempted him twice with, "If you are the son of God? Each time Jesus pulled out the sword of the Word."⁷

Condemnation will destroy your confidence. I have often had to ask myself, is it conviction or condemnation? Apostle John wrote, "And when He comes, He will convict and convince the world and bring demonstration to it about sin and about righteousness (uprightness of heart and right standing with God) and about judgment."⁸

Jesus was speaking of the Holy Spirit's personal ministry to us. Every time we are getting off track the Holy Spirit will convict us (*show us*) that our actions or decision is wrong. He usually does this by a knowing in our spirit that what we are doing is not right or through the Word of God.

Any mental attack on your self-worth does not come from the Father. He will correct your behavior, but he never condemns your worth.⁹ It is Satan who sends the thoughts like, “I am no good.” “I will never amount to anything.” “I am a failure.” “I am not important.”

When we feel convicted, our response should be to repent and change our direction. Satan does not want us to know the difference between condemnation and conviction. Condemnation is his counterfeit for conviction. Here are some contrasts that will help break the cycle of condemnation and guilt:

- *Know that God is the lifter up of our heads.* Satan is the accuser and enemy of the brethren.¹⁰ God has sent the Holy Spirit as our encourager.
- *Conviction* will point to something specific; a specific sin. The Lord will tell you exactly what you have done. *Condemnation* will be a general feeling or a vague accusation. You may feel guilty but cannot identify any specific sin.
- *Conviction* of the Holy Spirit will lead you to repentance. The sin will be recognizable. It is something unconfessed and unforgiven that you recognize—usually in the immediate past.

Condemnation will produce feelings of guilt. Using something imaginary or something already taken care of that the enemy will bring back up to torment you with.

- *Repentance* after conviction will leave you with knowing God’s mercy and grace. Because of the blood of Jesus, God forgives our sins and cleanses us from all unrighteousness.¹¹ The Holy Spirit will tell you how to take care of the sin.

When you obey, you get relief from soul-pain guilt. *Condemnation* will push you into a cycle of guilt and remorse. There is usually no solution offered. If any solution is offered, it is irrational and unscriptural. The soul-pain intensifies.

- *Conviction* will offer you freedom and liberty after repentance. *Condemnation* will trap you in bondage to oppression and heavy burdens that we don’t have to bear.

Decide to renew your mind with the Word of God in this area of self-worthiness and self-image.¹² Then when our enemy the devil comes to steal, kill or destroy in your life through condemnation. (DWJD) Do what Jesus did: pull out your sword (the Word of God).

We continue this chapter with taking a look at some of the obstacles to developing a healthy self-image, which is based upon knowing who you are in Christ. God is building or restoring the self-image he intended for you.

But we can be certain as soon as you decide you will believe what God has said Satan will seek to steal, distort or destroy the image that God is building within you.

- *Circumstances or trouble* will attempt to distort who we believe ourselves to be in Christ. In the Bible book of Matthew, Jesus told a story of the seed and the sower. In his explanation of the parable the one not rooted falls away because of trouble or persecution.

From our first lesson: we know we must strive to be rooted in Christ's acceptance and bear the good fruit of love, joy, peace, etc. Determine to be rooted and grounded in God's love and acceptance then when troubles come we will be steadfast & immovable.

- *Wrong thinking or imagination* will distort a right image of oneself. Often the warfare for our words is in the mind arena. Satan will try to get us to agree with him instead of God.

There's good news! We can win the war in our minds according to (2 Co. 10:4-6 *For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exaltes itself against the knowledge of God, bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.*)

- *Unbelief* will harden our hearts against a right self-image. Unbelief will hinder us from walking in the healthy self-image God has created for us. Our unbelief will stop us cold just as it did the Israelites attempting to enter the Promised Land. The Word of God says harden not your hearts in unbelief.¹³
- *Criticism and judgment* by other people will attempt to distort a healthy self-image. Criticism and judgment are the devil's tools. He wants to use them to stop you from knowing who you are in Christ and fulfilling your destiny.

He will attempt to steal your creativity and zeal through another's criticism. Don't let him! Jesus...made himself of no reputation... He chose to not concern himself about what people said about him.¹⁴

- *Wrong choices.* Choosing wrongly based upon our fears and doubts will distort our healthy self-image. Whose report will you believe the devils, evil circumstances, or what God has said. As the popular contemporary worship song says, "Whose report will you believe? I will believe the report of the Lord..."¹⁵

Knowing the difference between condemnation and conviction will turn the recording off that the enemy tries to play and replay of our past mistakes and shortcomings. The Apostle Paul encouraged us to press toward the high calling of God.

We strain toward what's ahead in the healthy self-image God has designed for each of us. Basing it all upon the Word of God and who we are in Christ, we change what we think of ourselves and ultimately what we believe.

I BELIEVE

I Believe. Consider what you believe about yourself. Does it line up with the Word of God? Put these in your heart. Change your mindset to agree with the Word of God. Gain a balanced healthy self-image and then go fulfill your destiny. Begin with these I believe:

1. I may not feel good every day but I can feel right. Because, I am right with God through Jesus Christ. *(2 Corinthians 5:17)*
2. I will refuse to let anyone make me feel inferior; just as I refuse to consider myself to be better than anyone else. By the grace of God I will be me! *(2 Corinthians 5:21)*
3. I am learning to be joyful about my progress, not depressed about how far I have to go. *(Acts 20:24)*
4. I will not be afraid to admit it, if I am wrong. But I won't always assume when things go wrong that it is my fault, either. *(1 John 1:9)*
5. I will stop saying negative things about myself, but I don't boast either. *(Hebrews 2)*
6. I reject and hate my sin, but I don't reject myself. *(1 John 1:9)*
7. Jesus is not ashamed of me; therefore, I am not ashamed. *(Hebrews 2:11)*
8. I don't have an exaggerated opinion of my own importance, but I don't think I am insignificant.

Whenever, Father God wants me to travel a difficult path, he will give me glimpses of the destination or the triumph to spur me on to victory. I pray He has been able to give you a glimpse of the victories he has in store for you as you renew your mind.

I know we are each at a different level of faith and accomplishment, for some it has only been a repeat of the principles already learned. I pray you were encouraged with the reinforcement of lessons and principles. For others it has been a conquest to get out of bed and face the day dressed in an unhealthy self-image. For you I pray that our Father has strengthened you and revealed more of the extraordinary woman you are.

Picture In A Picture

TWELVE WAYS TO UNLOCKING YOUR POTENTIAL

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.” Jeremiah 29:11-12 (NIV)

Track and Field superstar Jackie Joyner-Kersey's life and athletic achievements tell us about unlocking the potential within. Jackie Joyner-Kersey is “the greatest multi-event track and field athlete of all time,” announced Randy Harvey in the Los Angeles Times. “An Olympian to be reckoned with since 1984, Joyner-Kersey is the first American ever to win a gold medal in the long jump and the first woman in history to earn more than 7,000 points in the grueling seven-event heptathlon.

Joyner-Kersey has won three Olympic gold medals, one silver, and one bronze, and she established a world record in the heptathlon in 1986. Her achievements are so astounding--and her personality so engaging--that she has become one of America's favorite track athletes."

When asked about developing one's potential she responded with, "...Map out what you want to do. Even though you map out a course, you may have to take left and right turns. That doesn't mean you have failed, you have to be persistent and keep going.

A journey doesn't end tomorrow. Some people's journey may take two days and some others may take eight years. You need patience and understanding and to believe in the course you are taking."

Joyner-Kersey's potential may not have been so obvious early on. At first she lost every race but persisted and soon began winning. Joyner-Kersey's brother Al, himself an Olympic gold medalist, told Sports Illustrated: "I remember Jackie and me crying together in a back room in our house, swearing that someday we were going to make it. Make it out. Make things different." The rest is history; they did make it out, rising above and beyond their humble beginnings.

Today, Joyner-Kersey continues to tap her potential through becoming a popular motivational speaker. She is also a spokesperson and role model for asthma sufferers. She has been a spokesperson for Nike's PLAY (Participate in the Lives of America's Youth) program, helping to raise funds for youth activity centers and providing scholarship money to youth through the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Youth Center Foundation.¹⁶

God has created us in his own image. We are full of potential. Yet, it remains dormant, until we act. We each have gifts and abilities that the Lord has given us. It is up to us to use them.¹⁷

Have you ever felt as if your dreams and desires were locked inside of you? Often we do not know how to release what God has put inside us. If you have ever felt that way then this is for you.

The Holy Spirit has given me insight on unlocking the potential that lies dormant inside of us. Here are twelve powerful principles to *unlock* your potential:

1) *Focus on your potential and not your limitations.* If you have been guilty of that, stop it now! Don't get into comparing and the spirit of wrong competition.¹⁸ *Remember, according to the Apostle John, "A man can receive only what is given him from heaven..."* You undermine your worth by comparing yourself with others. Realize different is good. It is because we are different that each of us is special. Develop what God has given you.¹⁹

2) *Get in touch with your passion.* Your passion will point you to your purpose. When Jesus walked this earth he had a passion to help God's people and destroy the works of the devil. His passion pointed to his purpose.²⁰ Your purpose will lead you to your destiny.

The truth is God has a purpose for you and me as we are. A purpose that glorifies Him and that makes us a people of value. Make a decision to lay hold of the purpose God has for your life. You may not feel God has been using you for any lasting purpose. Decide by faith to trust his promise and wait for the results.

3) *Let God choose your form of service.* Let God choose your ministry and place you where He wills.²¹ So many times we allow others to choose what they think we should be doing.

Often, our society will make a person serving her family, as a wife and mother feel less important to God than one of his Bible teachers.

Or a faithful Pastor is somehow made to feel less than the wonderful Evangelist. This is not right thinking. God has a part for everyone and he values each part of Christ's body.²²

- 4) *Dream BIG dreams!* Even in believing God for normal things he has had to expand my expectations. I can relate to Moses who seemed to be suffering from a poor self-image when God called him to be the deliverer for his people. In the book of Exodus we find Moses saying to God, "Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh?" God's response was, "Certainly I will be with thee."²³

You see, it didn't matter who Moses was and it doesn't matter who we are, as long as we know our God is with us. So, take the lid off your dreams! Know that the God of the universe is with you and he has promised to do beyond what you could ask or think.²⁴

- 5) *Pray for vision.* Pray that God will give you vision for what he has called you to do. I needed his blueprint for my life and so do you. Mind you, it still will come in steps but it will come, if you believe. The Word of God says, "Where there is no vision the people perish." So ask for the vision in faith; then wait for Him.²⁵ *Cherish your visions and your dreams as they are the children of your soul; the blueprint of your ultimate achievements—Unknown.*

- 6) *Don't despise small starts.* Often we overlook the small for the spectacular in God. But his ways are not our ways. Pastor Keith Davis says, "You don't have to be great to start but you have to start to be great." And don't forget the words of Apostle Luke, "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much."²⁶

- 7) *Be bold.* Prepare your gifts and abilities. Preparedness fuels your confidence to be bold. Benjamin Disraeli said, "The secret of success in life is for a man to be ready for his time when it comes." Develop your confidence in God and step out in faith. *Courage is resistance to fear; mastery of fear. Not the absence of fear.* --E.M. Kelly.

- 8) *Go from faith to faith.* Take the first step in faith. You don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step—Dr. Martin Luther King. Once you take the first step keep going. Allow God to take you from glory to glory and from faith to faith.²⁷

- 9) *Work hard and diligently.* Some people constantly dream about what they will do while others wake up and work hard at it. The hands of the diligent bring wealth.²⁸ Thomas Edison said to a group of people, "*Most people miss opportunity because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.*"

- 10) *Finish what you start.* I know this appears like grade school advice but often we need to be reminded of the basics of life. Several of my life lessons come to mind when I thought on this subject of finishing what you start.

- 11) *Live life with purpose.* If you know your purpose, live it to the fullest. If you don't know it yet; decide you will find out from God. I just know with all my heart when you get serious about knowing He will show you.

This is what Bill Hull says about it, "There is nothing quite as exhilarating as getting out of bed in the morning, going back into the world, and knowing why. Enthusiasm is derived from the certainty that for this I was born and I am doing it! It is thrilling knowledge that I am fulfilling God's intended purpose for me."

Word Alive!

When my father died, friend of our family gave some encouraging words at his funeral. He said, "Friends, you can take comfort in the fact that your Dad finished the course set before him and he kept the faith." He reminded us that our Dad had been found on his favorite tractor at the end of a long farm field row under a shade tree looking as if he was asleep. He went on to say, "Father God could have allowed him to stop anywhere along the row but he waited until he got to the end of the row to symbolically confirm that he had fulfilled the ministry given to him in his life and had gone home to rest."²⁹

- 12) *Exercise your patience.* If problems have come and the winds of life have not stopped blowing, don't give up. You may have been tempted to run away from your problems, don't! If you don't see it through you will face the same challenges in the next thing you start or the next place you go. The writer of Hebrews challenges us with, "Cast not away your confidence...you have need of patience so that after you have done the will of God you may receive the promise."³⁰
- 13) *Live life to the fullest.* I encourage you to discover your passion, your purpose, and your destiny then give it all you have.³¹ Jean Davin encourages us with, "Life is a constant struggle to realize our potential. We are the only thing which stands in the way of seizing our opportunities."
- 14) *Set accountability factors in place.* Set reasonable but high goals then tell someone of what you plan. Expect more of yourself than anyone else does. Preferably tell someone that will be positive and be in agreement with you and your goals. Also, make it someone that will ask you periodically about your progress.

Word Alive!

I've often mentioned the old man that I met once. He was talking about his opportunities and how he let them go by. He kept saying that he was going to get started but he never did. Then it seemed as if suddenly he was an old man standing by the grave of his dreams and aspirations. He had lost all hope of ever starting. He'd said, "I once was called to preach. But I never got started..." I determined right then and there that I would not end up like that. I determined I would prepare for the opportunities that God would send my way. I said Father, if you will open the doors, I'll walk through and use the little I have. Take my little and make it big, Lord. Won't you join me in that determination? Live your life to the fullest.

WASTED POTENTIAL

Are you wasting your potential or the seeds possibilities of your life? It has been said that we humans use less than half of the potential that resides within us. Yet some find a way of releasing the fullest potential of gifts, talents, callings and anointing that lie dormant in each of us until activated. Let's examine some ways we can sometimes unknowingly allow our gifts that are given to us by God to lie inactivated.

Lack of security will prevent you from reaching your potential. If you are insecure, you won't have the confidence to reach for the stars. To improve your security level, get to know yourself and get to know your God. Give away the credit. Delegate and empower those you have delegated task to.

Lack of courage will stop us cold. Don't be afraid of failure. If you fail, decide to learn from your mistakes. Albert Einstein instructed the world with his philosophy on failure, "I don't look at my botched experiments as failures; they are merely education if I learn from each experiment that didn't work out."

Lack of diligence is a show stopper. Lack of diligence is a gracious way of saying, "You're acting lazy." Laziness is a sure enemy to realizing one's full potential. If you lack the ability to finish what you start or even to continue, start developing focus in your life. If you've never finished reading a book then complete this one to start developing diligence.

Lack of starting will hinder your potential. Procrastination seeks to keep us in the land of never starting. In a way it's like defeating someone in a boxing fight before they even get in the ring. Remember to break up overwhelming task into smaller ones. Then work on it a little each day. Before you know it you will gain victory.

Lack of completion is a potential waster. Is UNFINISHED stamped all over your life? This is one that I have dealt with most of my life until recent years. My intentions were good but the follow through was lacking. To combat lack of completion, I learned how to say no more. I learned my limitations and refused to go further. I discovered good most times became the enemy to great.

Lack of focus will slowly drain potential. Distractions will cause you to waste your potential. Read how the Apostle Paul encouraged the Philippians' church to reach full potential, "This one

thing I do...” (Philippians 3:13) Lack of focus will seek to cause us to become important in our potential.

Eqmeo

TWIN POWERS OF BLESSINGS

I believed, therefore I spoke –Psalms 116:10a

Scientists conclude the human body is over seventy percent water. All of life on earth depends intrinsically upon water for survival and good health. It is a known fact that the health of waters is often directly related to and responsible for the health of a community.

For over ten years, Japanese Scientist Dr. Masaro Enoto has been studying and experimenting with the effect words have on water. Not just any words though, he uses words of good and blessing on one side of the experiment. And on the other side he would use words of bad and cursing. These experiments have resulted in a book called *Messages from Water*.

Before using Dr. Enoto’s findings in my example, I must say I do not endorse his book as a good Christian book. He has mixed Christian principles and Buddha’s philosophies. I believe all basic science laws and principles are just that, basic science. They originate from the Father, our creator but they won’t change whether we believe that or not.

The law of gravity and the law of aerodynamics will still operate the same whether I know what to call it or not. Whether I believe in God or I don’t. With that said, here are his findings:

Dr. Enoto’s experiment starts with the scientist taking a glass of pure spring water from his area in Japan, freezing it and observing it under a microscope at molecular level. It appeared light and crystalline reflecting the light. Then he took a toxin filled glass of water from a nearby polluted river, froze a few droplets and observed it under the microscope and then photographed it. It appeared dark almost black in some spots.

The second half of the experiment involved taking another two glasses of water respectively from the spring and the toxic water filled container speaking words to it and immediately freezing it. The toxic glass of water they spoke words of good to it saying, “You are so beautiful, wonderful, and good.”

The other glass of spring water they spoke curses to it saying, “You are ugly, you make me sick! I will kill you!” They discovered the frozen spring water with curses spoken to it, observed under the microscope was dark, gnarled and black in some spots. But the frozen toxic water with good spoken to it was observed as light whimsical shaped pattern under the microscope.³²

Through the years as the occult and witchcraft gained popularity the word ‘curse’ has become familiar term in our American culture and society. It still strikes fear in the heart of some. On the other hand, the word ‘blessing’ seems to have lost its power. It has become a courteous good-bye or ‘God bless you’ between Christian families and groups. With little power or understanding Christians recite the names of family members praying, “God bless Mama, Daddy, Johnnie, Susie and my friend Todd.

The Japanese scientist through his experiment simply tapped into an age-old God-inspired principle that is as basic and changeless as the scientific laws I mentioned earlier. That principle is ‘the power of death and life are in the tongue.’ To bless is to honor, praise and salute another. To be blessed is to be given power for prosperity, success and longevity.

The blessing began with God who after creating mankind in His own image blessed them. (Genesis 1:27-28) Other examples of God’s blessing being spoken are:

I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. (Gen. 12:2)

From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned, the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field. (Gen. 39:5)

The Ark of the Lord remained in the house of Obed-Edom the Gittite for three months and the Lord blessed him and his entire household. (2 Sam. 6:11)

Following the example of our creator God, Hebrew families developed a tradition of blessing their children. Though linked to the birthright, the blessing was different. The birthright was intended primarily for the first-born child. A specific and personalized blessing was reserved for each child in the family. (Gary Smalley & John Trent, “The Power of Blessing.”)

In the Old Testament tradition, the blessing would invoke God’s protection, prosperity and success. When God blessed, nothing could turn it away. A curse could come but it would be removed by the stronger power of blessing.

In Numbers 11, when Balak attempted to bribe Balaam to curse the Israelites, God said, “You shall not curse the people, for they are blessed.” (Numbers 22:12) In Numbers 23 Balaam says, “God is not a man, that he should lie; He doesn’t change his mind like humans do. Has he ever promised, without doing what he said? Look! I have received a command to bless them. For God has blessed them and I cannot reverse it.” (Numbers 23:19-24a TLB) In a similar manner, no matter what evil has been spoken over our lives, remember God has the last word on our blessing.

I encourage you to begin to effectively use the power of life through blessing. Our sponsors, children, parents and others need our power to bless their life. There are lots of ways to communicate a blessing. As with any improvement or change first assess what you have been doing. When was the last time you:

- Cooked your family’s favorite meal.
- Dressed up for your spouse.
- Played over an hour with your children.
- Invited someone to dinner after Church.
- Just listened to someone’s troubles without judging.

You can increase your power to bless just by beginning to look for small ways to bless your family and those around you. According to the Old and New Testament there are elements designed to release a blessing.

THE POWER OF TOUCH TO BLESS

The blessing can be conveyed by touching. The act of touch communicates affection, affirmation and even physical health. It is a basic human need to be touched. Nurses and volunteers alike agree that premature babies regularly touched develop faster than those that are not.

Beyond the natural benefits of touch, there are biblical examples of touch expressing a blessing. In Genesis 48, Israel blessed Ephraim and Manasseh by putting his hands on their heads. In the New Testament there are numerous examples of touch releasing the virtue of blessing.

- He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him. (Matt. 8:15)
- And he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them. (Mk. 10:16)
- And these signs will accompany those who believe; they will place their hands on sick people and they will get well. (Mk 16:18)

So reach out and begin to use the power of blessing through touch in your area of influence. Your children, your co-workers, your church family, your world all can benefit from your touch to heal, nurture or simply bless.

THE POWER OF WORDS TO BLESS

The Scripture says the tongue has the power of life and death. Words play an important role in conveying the blessing. When Israel blessed Manasseh and Ephraim, he laid his hands on their heads and boldly said, "By you Israel will bless, saying, 'May God make you as Ephraim and as Manasseh.'" (Genesis 48:20)

With words we create labels that may last a lifetime. We can express acceptance and love or rejection and disapproval. Physiologists confirm it takes 99 positive words to eliminate the effect of one negative word or phrase. It took me a long time to turn the tide of negative words coming out of my mouth in my own life. It seemed even longer to realize the definite power my words have on other people for good or detriment.

I am beginning to realize that often Father God is looking for someone to agree (believe) with him in fulfilling his promises in our lives. Join me in making the decision I made years ago to begin to agree with God. Starting with the small; not only for our life but for those in our family and others God will begin to put in your path.

For example, a rebellious friend of our family would curse, swear, gossip incessantly. If anyone even mentioned the word prayer, she would get upset and refuse prayer. Our family had for years unknowingly agreed with Satan saying she's always going to be like that. She's never going to come to God. She was born with a contrary streak.

Why do you think she's going to change now? But God began to whisper to me, "She's an influencer when she comes to Me, many will follow. I want to save her and all those she influences. I want to change her heart and grant her health and peace in abundance."

Not long after, I would discover myself saying the same things my family would say and stop in mid-sentence. I began to agree with God. I would say what I heard Him say.

I am continuing to see change after change take place in her life. Her heart is softened more and more. I haven't seen a complete change but I haven't given up. Why? Because God hasn't given up; he still whispers about His desires for her. Who is God calling you to agree with Him about?

SPEAKING GOD'S BLESSINGS OVER YOUR LIFE

I've inserted some more ammunition here to renew your mind with the Word of God. Continue with these blessings and then more *I believe*:

1. I am blessed when I come in and blessed when I go out. Deuteronomy 28.
2. Father, I speak a blessing over _____. May it run after them and overtake them.
3. I trust in the Lord my God so I am blessed.
4. Father thank you for blessing me with favor and honor that encompasses me about as a shield. (Psalms
5. The Lord's blessing brings wealth and he adds no trouble to it. Proverbs 10:22
6. God says he has a good plan for my life in *Jeremiahs 29:11*. I am going to fulfill my destiny and be all that I can be for His glory. God gave me gifts and talents, and I intend to use them to help others.
7. I am nothing, and yet I am everything! In myself I am nothing, and yet in Jesus I am everything I need to be. (*John 15:5*)
8. I can do all things I need to do, everything that God calls me to do, through His Son Jesus Christ. (*Phil 4:13*)
9. Beware of having yourself on your mind too much. Don't meditate excessively on what you have done right or what you have done wrong. Both of these activities keep your mind on you!
Keep your thoughts centered on Christ and His principles: You will guard him and keep him in perfect and constant peace whose mind (both its inclination and its character) is stayed on You... (*Isaiah 26:3*).
10. Take good care of yourself physically. Do the best you can with what God gave you to work with—but don't be excessive or vain about your appearance.
11. Learn all you can, but don't allow your education to become a point of pride. God does not use us because of our education, but because of our heart toward him.
12. Realize that your gifts and talents are a gift, not something you have manufactured yourself. Don't look down on people who cannot do what you do.

13. Don't despise your weaknesses—they keep you dependent upon God.

Realize the power of blessing through words can change a life and a lifetime of ill-spoken words. Stay humble, be patient and watch your faith-filled words of life and blessings construct a new life for you, your family and those God has called you to influence.

Snapshot

Are you inspired to develop your potential? I know I was. Well, I was re-inspired to use what I've been given to the best of my ability. My tiny (in my eyes) gifts and talents have become my life's work. I plan to keep working at it and multiplying what I have until our Lord Jesus comes or my time is up. I want to be like the wise servants who presented to their master their talents multiplied many times over. Don't you?

Wait! Don't tune me out. I know not everyone is there yet. But even if you aren't quite sure what your life's work and purpose is yet keep working on what's before you. Remember everyone has potential. We just need to develop it.

Before I had even a clue about what my potential or purpose was, a mentor of mine would quote this Scripture to me a lot, "Whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your might." So, if you already know where your potential is leading you, be faithful. Your reward is great! And if you don't know yet keep doing what's before you and it will come clear soon. God is faithful to finish what He's started in your life. Best wishes for success and walking in God's destiny.

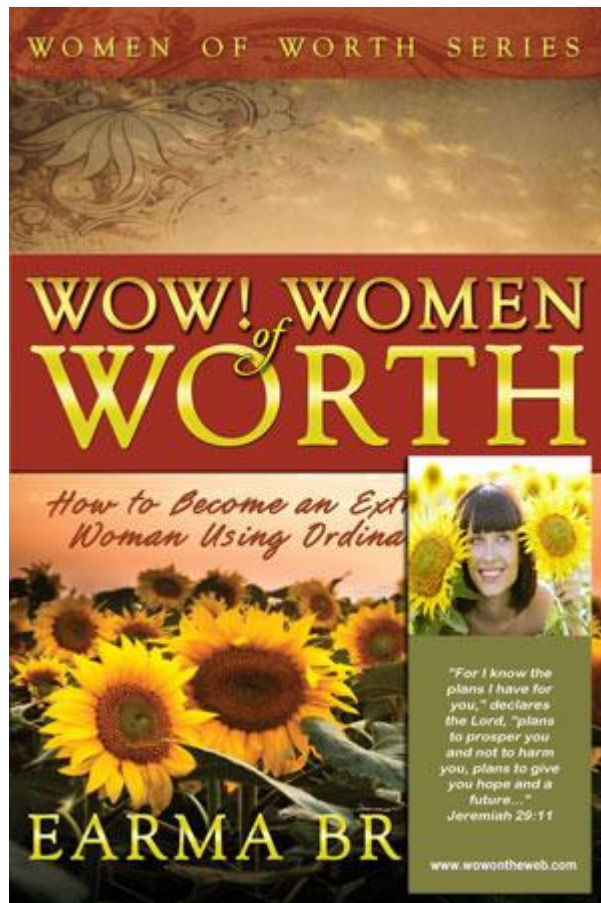
Worthy Action:

Take the lid off! Do something you've never done before and receive something you've never received before.



About Author

Earna Brown, a 12 book Christian Author inspires women around the world to become women of destiny, purpose, and victory through speaking engagements, her books and Bible studies. She is also the author of two other *Wow! Women* books: *Women of Destiny* and *Women of Legacy*. Rev. Varn Brown and Earna pastor Grace Covenant Church in Marianna, Arkansas.

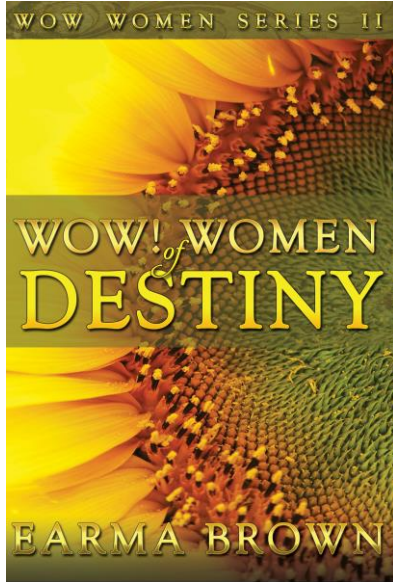


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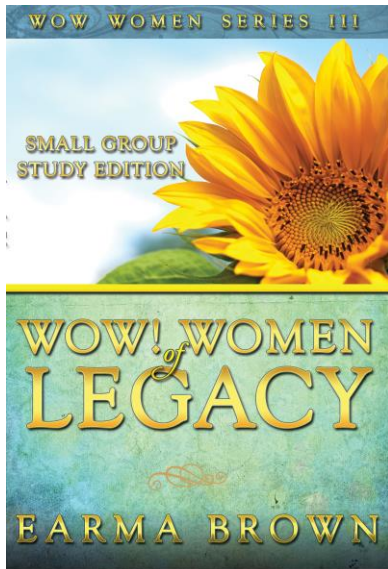
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